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Frank L. Hoogs, - - - - - Manager

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## CONGRESS OF SONG.

Last night's congress of song marks an era in the general musical culture of the Territory. That the rendering of the pieces was perfect no one could claim, but that they showed the musical power of the youth of our community and the excellent training that they are receiving was abundantly manifest. A program which started with the Gloria from Mozart's Twelfth Mass and concluded with the Bridal Chorus from Wagner's Lohengrin was certainly likely to be comprehensive enough.

The choice of music was, indeed, much to be commended. Though some was light and popular as Kentucky Babe rendered by the Kamehameha Boys, and Farmer's Nursery Rhyme quadrilles given by the pupils of Oahu College, the main part of the concert was devoted to music of an elevated character, showing that the rising generation in the Territory is being trained to appreciate the best style and the finest models in music.

One thing which was manifest was that the pupils are being trained to read music. The work produced last night was no mere rote work, it was based on a solid knowledge of musical notation; and a proper study of the power to produce musical sounds and effect from the human voice. The correct intonation and production of voice was very noticeable throughout the evening, in some cases, perhaps, better than in others, but it was clearly in evidence that much attention had been given to this most important portion of musical training.

Another thing which was strongly brought out was that the schools possess some truly beautiful voices. There were some heard last night which by training would rank high in the musical world. There was an utter absence of the tinny, or screeching effect. The natural ability was there, and this had been made the best of.

This brings us to the trainers. Honolulu can congratulate itself upon having ladies and gentlemen of ability and good sense as teachers of music in the schools. There can be no success without the best of training and the most painstaking work. That this had been done was plainly shown by the success of the entertainment.

A word must be added upon the appearance and behavior of the young ladies and gentlemen who took part. There was probably never a choir or chorus of 300 voices which looked prettier, which was more modestly and unassumingly dressed, and which was so free from self-consciousness. The choruses were on the stage for song, and they strictly attended to the duty of the moment.

The inception of this idea of a congress of song is a good one. It will in time grow into one of the most popular of our entertainments, and will be an event looked forward to. A beginning has been made, and those who have the management of it deserve every credit. It has shown how much musical talent of a high order we have, and it has further shown how that talent can be properly developed.

## OPENING UP.

Asia which has not been exploited much by railroads, save by the British lines in India, and the great Trans-Siberian line, is to have another great line from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf. This line is in the hands of German financiers. The idea of it emanated from the Emperor after his trip to Constantinople and the Holy Land. It is to be called the Bagdad railroad. Fancy a railroad in the dream land of Haroun el Raschid.

A beginning was made with the Anatolian Railroad to run southeasterly from Scutari, opposite Constantinople, to Konia, in Asia Minor. Sections of this line have been built. The Bagdad Railroad is to connect with the Anatolian Railroad at Konia and continue southeasterly to the Persian gulf. After long delays the Turkish government gave the necessary "concession" for its construction on January 21, 1902. The railroad is to cross the Taurus mountains and lead to Adana, near the coast of the Mediterranean. An existing line from Adana to Mersina will give access to a harbor, and a branch line to Kastambul is to give access to another. Should the Turkish government at some future time wish to connect the port of Tripoli with the main line of the railroad, the Bagdad Railroad is given a monopoly of building the necessary branch. Other important markets, like Aleppo and Orfa, are to be reached by branch lines.

The main line continues eastward, crosses the Euphrates and reaches the banks of the Tigris at Mossul; then it continues on the right bank of that river to Bagdad. A branch line is to lead to Khanikin, where it will tap the Persian pilgrimage trade. South of Bagdad the railroad leaves the valley of the Tigris, crosses the Euphrates to its western shore, and leads southeasterly to Basra and El Kueid on the Persian gulf.

When one reads these names visions of the Arabian Nights spring up in one's mind. Sinbad the sailor started his voyages from Basra. He voyaged to those mysterious islands where he saw the Roi, and the diamonds, and the old man of the sea. Verily it takes one back from the hard age of fact to the fairyland of youth, when such things seemed possible. It takes one back to mysterious doorways, leading to lovely gardens, and bewitching ladies, black slaves and the wonderful Jaffier. And all this is going to be smitten by a railroad, and like Cinderella's chariot and horses be turned into a melon and rats and mice. It is becoming a prosaic world.

The length of the Bagdad Railroad from Constantinople to the Persian gulf will be about 1,860 miles, say half as great as that of the Trans-Siberian Railroad. The expense of building the line and the insignificant traffic at present available make a government guarantee of interest essential. How the Turkish government can and will supply such a guarantee satisfactory to prospective investors is the great problem. The railroad is to be single track for the present, though land sufficient for double tracking is to be acquired. The "concession" makes minute provision for building the road. Bridges are to be of iron or stone; rails are to be thirty-six feet long and to weigh seventy-five pounds per yard. Stations are to be about twelve miles apart. Further provisions are made for the maintenance of the eventual roadbed and rolling stock; minimum rates are established for the transportation of passengers, freight and the mails. The speed of the trains and the number of fast trains and accommodation trains are prescribed. It remains to be seen whether these painstaking provisions will ever be carried out.

## THE WAR.

The war is being waged upon a large scale now, and interest centers upon the land forces. The advance upon Port Arthur is steady and determined, while the resistance seems also very determined. The Russians are fighting, however, a losing battle, and those who are occupying the Liaotung Peninsula are practically being sacrificed to allow Russia to make her second move.

If the statement telegraphed from London is true, Russia has suffered a very severe loss in the Tatum Pass. To have 4000 killed and wounded, and 3000 taken prisoners out of a force of 15,000 is to lose one-third of one's force. Moreover it is not only the actual loss in men, but it is the loss in prestige and the weakening of the morale of the troops. Educated troops may overcome defeat, uneducated troops like the Russian soldiery are prone to become dispirited and even frightened.

The navy which carried off all the honors at the commencement of the war has not been heard from for some days. It must be watching

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The battle of Kinchou of which there is now no doubt must have been one of the bloodiest of modern times. The Russians were entrenched on a hill, but after sixteen hours fighting the Japanese drove them out of their cover and sent them on the run for Port Arthur. It reminds one of the battle of the Alma during the Crimean war. The Russians there occupied the heights had a large battery of guns, but they were charged by the British troops, the battery of sixty guns taken, and the whole army put to flight. At the battle of Kinchou the casualties will probably reach 30,000 men.

The Queen's hospital has won its fight for its subsidy. That is one thing. The next is how is it going to get the money if there is no cash in the treasury? It might attach the Capital building, and sell it at auction.

Japan has declared a blockade of the south of the Liaotung Peninsula. The Port Arthur garrison will soon be getting hungry.

The Territory won its case against Cotton Brothers for the loss of the Territorial dredger, but the case has been appealed and will go to the Supreme court.

Decoration Day has always been observed with appropriate ceremonies in Honolulu. There will be special features however this year. In the first place there will be a greater turn out of military and naval men. In the second place the school children will take an active part. One hundred children from the schools will sing as the G. A. R. procession enters the cemetery. The display will probably more picturesque than any similar one which has ever occurred here.

Port Arthur and Vladivostok very carefully. We know that Admiral Skrydoff is at the latter place, but it is evident that he finds that nothing can be done. What can he do with three ships against the Japanese fleet?

With modern repeating rifles cavalry have very little chance against infantry. The old picturesque cavalry charge is a thing of the past. The skirmishes between Japanese infantry and Cossacks prove the truth of this. In one affair recently a squadron of Cossacks was nearly annihilated by Japanese infantry while the Japanese did not lose a man. The fact is the

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cavalry can no longer drive a charge home, the saddles are emptied and the lines thrown into confusion long before the horsemen reach an effective distance. Horsemen in rapid motion cannot fire with precision. Infantry can take good aim.

We are having a plethora of Princes and magnates just now and will doubtless continue to do so. There are a Japanese Prince and Princess due here shortly en route for the St. Louis exhibition.

## EVANGELIST HAMILTON.

"The World's Greatest Memorial" will be the subject of Evangelist Hamilton's discourse at the 11 o'clock service tomorrow at the Christian church. In the evening the subject will be "Heaven, what is Heaven? Where is Heaven?" at 7:30 service Professor Wilkinson will sing "The Holy City." This will be the last of the services by the evangelist as they sail Wednesday for Australia.

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